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ISLAND TIMES

APRIL 2010

A community newspaper covering the islands of Casco Bay

FREE

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Complaint Lodged Against Boats on Beach

A letter to city officials complaining about boats stored on the beach down front has sparked an investigation into use of the waterfront.

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Test Tower on Final Clearance

A meteorological tower to study wind energy on Peaks Island may go up soon if the final requirements are met.

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April Fool's edition Once a year we like to remind you that everything you read - or see for that matter - isn't always right. Be careful what you find in this issue, some of it's just wrong.

Children's Workshop loses city funding

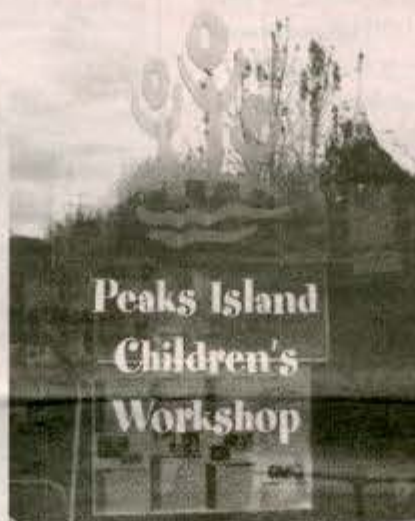
BY KEVIN ATTRA

For 28 years the Peaks Island Children's Workshop was operated by Catholic Charities of Maine, but broke away in November 2000 to become a fully independent, non-profit organization.

Since then it has relied on funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the city's Community Development Block Grant program to support its after school and daycare services.

Over the past two years these funds have been shrinking. Last year the state DHHS money disappeared. Just last month the Workshop lost the CDB grant as well.

There are currently around 17 families with working parents who rely on the program for child care, and it's a struggle for some of them to afford it. The Workshop is a co-pay program and uses the state and municipal grants to provide scholarships for families with low to moderate



incomes.

"Now I have two families I don't know what to do with," said Lori Freid Moses, who took over as interim director last fall. "They can't come without this money. If we don't find another source, I don't know what will happen."

The Workshop requested \$34,000 to meet the demand for scholarships this year. When that was denied, City Councilor

Kevin Donoghue apparently tried to get \$5,000 for the most critically needed, but the grant was restricted to amounts over \$32,000, "so we couldn't even get that," said Freid Moses.

"The city changed the rules this year," she said, "although I'm not sure that would have made a difference."

Grants were awarded to programs that scored the highest points based on the perceived demand for and the quality of the services provided as well as other criteria spelled out in the application.

"I think we improved," said Freid Moses. "It was a strong application and got more points than last year." Among the Workshop's strengths are its accreditation by the prestigious National Association of the Education of Young Children, and its collaboration with community resources like the elementary school, the Brackett Church and the Fifth Maine.

This year only eight programs

having the highest scores were funded, but they were each awarded 100 percent of the money they requested, which was unprecedented. Previously, almost all the programs who applied would be awarded something, similar to handing out grades based on a curve.

According to Freid Moses, this year Community Policing got fully funded, with \$169,000. All of the \$552,000 available for social service programs went to just seven organizations.

The basic scholarship fund at the Children's Workshop will allow families to pay from 50 percent to 75 percent of the cost over a 15-week period, expressed as "equivalent" weeks because it can be broken up into any increment depending on how the family wants to use the service.

"It's a very tight budget," said Freid Moses, "and now it's going to shrink by \$5,000." At this point, the Workshop will have to rely on fundraising events, which she said are coming up soon, and individual donations to fill the gap in student aid.

Federal disaster relief approved for Cumberland County

BY KEVIN ATTRA

On March 25, President Obama approved a Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Maine for storm damage that occurred between Feb. 23 to March 2 in five counties including Cumberland County.

As a result, agents of the Federal Emergency Management Agency will meet with representatives of municipalities (fire chiefs, public works directors, town managers) and non-profit organizations such as hospitals and the Water District in April to fill out applications for federal assistance.

"I call it a kick-off meeting, the way it's worked in the



past," said Coleman Clarke, who, as Long Island's fire chief, will represent the town at the briefing.

FEMA will then meet with each representative later to do a focused assessment of damage. "It should go fairly quickly," said James E. Budway, director of the Cumberland County

Emergency Management Agency. "FEMA does this a lot. They're very good at it."

According to Budway the federal government will pay 75 percent of the remediation costs, and the state will cover another 15 percent. The local community pays the rest.

"Then it's a matter of completing the work - project

specific - in order for there to be a reimbursement," he said. "Ultimately it ends up being a year or two in process."

On Long Island during the 2007 Patriot's Day storm, "a considerable amount of trees blew over just like dominos," said Chief Clarke. The town was able to get a mitigation grant and hired logger, Rene Noel, from Southern Maine Forest Service to consult.

With his guidance, the debris was hauled and sorted by size and species. The trunks of downed Spruce trees were sold to a lumber mill, the tops were chipped separately and sold as bio-fuel to the Sappi plant in Westbrook, and the hardwood was sold to the International

please see DISASTER, page 3

On the cover:

cover image and photo at right by Lynn Johnson



Hate Me Rose

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Long Island boat builder Steve Johnson found something warm and roomy to ride around the bay in during the winter when he came across a friend's GMC van. "It was going to the dump. We wanted something we could put more people in," he said. "I saw it was a nice van."

He took the wheelhouse off the *Hate Me Rose*, a 28-foot lobster boat he used to run when he was a lobsterman, and mounted the van on the hull. He had to widen her to 12 feet with two 18-inch sponsons on either side. "She wanted to roll," he said.

He put her in the water in February to try her out, but the weather stayed so nice he kept her in and has been using her to get around the bay and into town on errands.

"She's got plenty of heat," he said, "and the headlights show up marker buoys good." Equipped with the original 255 HP Isuzu diesel engine, the van-boat will do 10 to 12 knots, a little slower than it did on the road but with probably about the same gas mileage.

She has four captain's chairs and a bench seat across the back to hold six people comfortably, and typical accessories like running lights and windshield wipers, plus some not-so-typical options like Venetian blinds,

satellite TV and radio.

For a trip into town she beats the Aucocisco III hands down for comfort and convenience, but on warm summer days he still has the convertible Pontiac Sunbird-boat he built a couple of years ago. With its twin 200 HP outboards, the *Ca'-boat* will do over 40 knots.

Right now the *Ca'-boat*'s down in Florida, but you can expect to see her in June when she comes back for the lobster boat races in Boothbay and Rockland.

Johnson quit fishing to take over the family boatyard on Long Island in 1994. Beside converting automobiles into boats, he builds large fiberglass cruisers at the boatyard, including Long Island's 36-foot rescue boat, a fully-equipped sea-going ambulance.



ABOVE: The interior of the van boat, which includes a dash-mounted GPS system, two-way radio and satellite television (photo by Lynn Johnson). TOP RIGHT: On trials, the van boat can do up to 12 knots (photo by Lynn Johnson). BOTTOM RIGHT: The *Ca'-boat* in Portland harbor. Built last year and powered by twin 200 HP engines, she can exceed 40 knots (staff photo).

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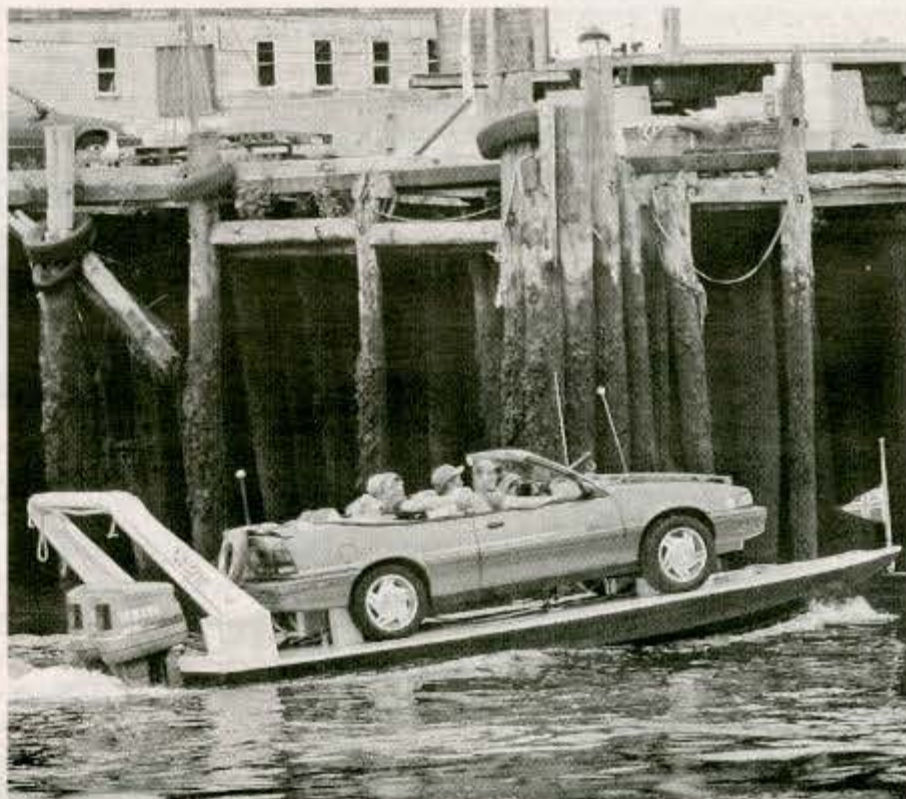
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Complaint says boats on the beach down front are unsafe

BY KEVIN ATTRA

A letter written in mid-March to members of the Peaks Island Council, City Council and City Manager's Office complaining about boats stored on the beach down front has started an investigation into use of the waterfront on Peaks Island.

"There are a number of boats with different stories, none of which are apparently allowed to be there," said City Councilor Kevin Donoghue, "but the city has left well enough alone, absent an islander complaint."

According to PIC member Lynne Richard, the letter was written by a long-time summer resident of the island. In it the writer complained that the boats were a hazard, citing an incident where a young boy apparently hit his head on one of the propellers.

Island Administrator Mike Murray, who also received a copy of the letter, wouldn't say what action, if any, the city will take because it is too early in the investigation.

"We are doing research on the nature of the complaint, looking at the historical perspective, speaking with people — long time residents — about accepted practices on Peaks and other islands. We're taking into account the different fishermen and trying to put it in perspective."

There are currently four fishing vessels on cribbing above the high tide line on the beach. Three of them have been there for several years and are in various stages of being repaired (photo below).

After discussing the issue at the regular meeting on Wednesday, March 24, PIC members decided that the council could not enforce any rules, but it could address language and advocate for changes, according to Councilor Richard.

"It's kind of necessary for fishermen to have a place to beach their boats," she said. "I've been interested in exploring ways of making it a designated working waterfront area, but it's a very complicated process."

She said it would be much simpler to keep children away from the boats than to have the boats removed. "It might create a hardship," said Richard. "It's hard enough being a fisherman."

Two of the boat owners said they were aware of the complaint but had not been approached yet by anyone from the city. Said one, "What I'm most interested in is how the City Council is going to handle this. Are they going to support the lobster industry?"

If the City Council were to have the boats removed he said, "I would consider that a real quantum shift in what the island has become."

POLICE LOG March 2010

Provided by Lisa Perrotta

Planning & Research Coordinator, PPD

Time	Date	Street	Description
21:39	5	Island Av	911 Hang Up Calls
13:59	7	Sargent Rd	Animal Complaint
16:43	9	Island Av	Alarm/burglary
14:21	19	Central Av	Asst Other Agency
19:16	19	Peaks Island	Fight
23:40	19	Peaks Island	Loud Party
0:26	20	Peaks Island	Persons Bothering

PROMOTIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Peaks Island Tax Assistance faces possible shortfall

This is the first year since it was established that Peaks Island Tax Assistance may come up short in its efforts to help permanent homeowners pay their property taxes, and may need another \$2,000 to meet the demand for assistance. If you feel you are in a position to help, please send your contribution to PITA, PO Box 126, Peaks Island, Maine 04108.

Another way to help is to attend the Loaf and Ladle Dinners, usually held on the second Tuesday of the month. Our cooks are wonderful and Charles Burr, our preeminent dessert maker, surprises us every time with his masterful desserts. All of the proceeds will go to Peaks Island Tax Assistance.

We will begin other fundraising as the warmer weather sets in. We hope to have some events that will be crowd pleasers. If you have any questions about PITA please call Cynthia Pedlikin, 766-0067, or speak to one of our committee members.

Jane Adams, Ralph Ashmore, Michelle Boyle, Diane Clark, Joyce Doane, Christina Foster, Jane Gerard, Georgia Gillette, Sandra Lucas, Judith McAllister, Howard Pedlikin, Teresa Schull, and Doug Smith

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DISASTER, from page 1

Paper mill in Bucksport.

"That was the key thing," said Clarke. "We took a fire hazard, converted it into commodity and used the revenue to pay for removal." He said that the cleanup may have been a \$500,000 project, but the town only spent about \$36,000.

"If we hadn't done that we'd have three times the damage from this last storm."

His biggest worry now is fire.

In early March, he brought a Maine Forest Service expert out to the island to assess the condition of the woodland and the risk of fire. The forestry specialist indicated that the density of timber, live and dead, was high and more space should be cleared, especially around houses.

"We already had one grass fire,

caused by a switch on a power line that blew sparks on ground," said Clarke. "With the right wind and all that extra fuel on the ground, I wouldn't be surprised if [a fire] went from one side of the island to the other before we got it out."

The Forest Service specialist expected that it would take over a month to clear away debris from the latest storm. The Patriot's Day cleanup took three months.

"My position is we need to manage this properly so we don't have something like a forest fire," said Clarke. "As we have these coastal storms, these trends are going to continue. Sooner or later we're going to have one."

"And you're on an island. It's not like you can get in your car and drive away."

Wind test tower for Peaks Island on final clearance

BY KEVIN ATTRIA

In early March, Sam Saltonstall, a member of the Peaks Island Environmental Action Team looking at wind energy on the island, put out an email thanking residents for contributions to cover insurance costs for a test tower.

"The wind group of PEAT believes it is back on track now to have the tower set up by early spring in Trott Littlejohn Park," he wrote.

He said later, "We had about 20 people make donations for the insurance, which includes liability insurance to be shared with garden policy of \$500 annually,

and property insurance required by the University of Maine to protect their test tower [\$750]."

The 100' tall meteorological tower being supplied by UM will record wind velocity, direction and air temperature for one year.

It has taken nearly two years to reach this point, but wind power may now get to be studied in order to determine how much is actually available on the island.

According to Saltonstall, obtaining the necessary permits to install the tower took up much of the time, but the project was also significantly delayed in August 2009 when Efficiency Maine, which actually funds the testing towers, designated UM as the administrative agency in charge of doling them out to communities.

Before that, Unity College had been the intended supplier, and all of the groundwork for permits with the city had been based on plans designed by Unity engineering professor Mick Wormsley who conducts wind energy studies for the college.

When UM got involved, Unity was thrown out of the picture and the Peaks Island project essentially had to start from scratch. In fact, there was a long delay before UM even made applications available for the towers.

"In light of Unity's loss of fund, UM chose a different test tower model," said Paul Villeneuve, a UM Electrical Engineering Technology professor managing the project. "The safety report was no longer valid and all that stuff had to be resolved."

PEAT was eventually awarded a tower, "an Amertower 25," said Saltonstall. "It's 100 feet, a little shorter than expected - the higher you go the more velocity you get. The real question is how high the turbine will be."

Villeneuve said that the original conditional rezoning agreement with the city, which would have expired on March 3, was renewed by the City Council on Feb. 18.

At that meeting he said he learned that a

letter of protest had been lodged over the proposed wind tests due to concern over healthy effects of wind turbines, but that hasn't impacted the project yet.

He added that the Feb. 25 storm delayed installation five to eight weeks. In early March he said that Peaks was number four in the queue of applicants for a testing tower.

According to Saltonstall, the latest delay was over a dispute about the time frame for removing the tower after testing is complete. Apparently the city would have allowed a test tower to remain in place for up to two years, but the university wanted it back within 90 days after the tests were complete. UM got its way.

Now, all that remains is a "pull test" to make sure the ground can hold the guy wires which keep the tower from falling over. The tests are expected to be done sometime this month.

"We're waiting to hear from the city that everything is clear," said Saltonstall, "Then we'll get put into the queue."

Local restaurants collaborate on homeless project

Inspired by a 24-hour feature about homelessness in the U.S. that aired on radio station WMPG in February, a group of local restaurateurs have begun a program to get excess food from their kitchens to the homeless.

"There's so much waste in the restaurant business," said Sherry Livingstone, a chef at the trendy Old Port Books & Wine Grill. "People never finish what they order."

Diners are able to donate a portion of their meal to the program in any amount they choose. "It's so easy," said Livingstone. All of the collaborating restaurants have reported great success with the program, called "Are-you-gonna-eat-that?"

A day in the life of 19th century students is reenacted at Peaks Island School





ABOVE: Hoops as it was played before the invention of basketball. Children at Peaks Island Elementary School (from left) Anna Mitchell, Rowan Daligan, Annissa Carey, Eric Conrad and Maisie Winter enjoy the age-old pastime of hoop rolling on "1800s Day." With help from island volunteers, among them Mandy Davis, third-, fourth- and fifth-graders spent a day experiencing 19th-century foods, fashions and folkways. The day capped an integrated studies unit on the Civil War and westward expansion.

BELOW: Skirting the edge of action, Annissa Carey, Maisie Winter and Anna Mitchell, in pioneer attire, follow the game of hoops.

photos by Dequbn Simms







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For the love of Peaks!

Tom Bohan



photo by Fran Houston

Here was this little town out on an island. They had sidewalks built by the WPA. They had houses that didn't look like island houses. I came out here on an August afternoon in 1980. I've heard a lot of other people say the same thing. It reminded me of a short story by Ray Bradbury I'd read when I was a child, about people going to Mars and finding this town, just like this town in Iowa where they grew up, from another century. And that's the impression I had. I decided then I wanted to live here the rest of my life, that first visit. So that is how I came to Peaks.

I moved out September 1st of 1980 to a very small house on the backshore. There were three houses

occupied on the backshore in the winter back then. So it was very quiet. And I would leave work, and I remember in particular the winter time, walking through the woods and coming home and thinking to myself about all the stories my father had told me — like everybody's father — about how far he had to walk to school, you know barefoot. I'm thinking, "I'm 43 years old and I'm walking a mile and a half through the snow to take a boat to go to work!"

I had figured that when winter came

I'd ski back and forth. So winter came and I skied back and forth maybe three times. But it was such a pain-in-the-neck to deal with the skis I started walking. I think it was the most I'd walked since I was in grade school. Every morning I'd walk over a mile and a half and every night I'd walk back. Then spring came and I thought I'd start riding my bike again, but I'd gotten to enjoy that walk so much and to see the flowers changing day by day ... There's a thousand things you can look at as you walk across Brackett, learning different bird songs I'd never learned before. So I walked for the rest of the time I was back there, for three winters.

I left the island for about eight months in 1982 because I was starting my consulting firm in forensic science, in Portland. When I returned, I rented Priscilla and Don [Webster's] house. When I was moving in I happened to look in the mail box. There were letters for me! They had heard I was coming back so the post office, instead of continuing to forward them uptown, just started delivering mail to the house I was moving into. People I'd run into would say, "Good to see you home!" and "Good to see you're back!" and "I'm glad you're home!" It was a Peaks Island-type thing.

The first few years I was here my landlady, Betty Bean, was a member of the San Souci Square Dance Club. They were always short of males so she got me to start going. Doreen and Al McCann were part of it and we would meet on their porch. Every Saturday night I'd be square dancing from 8:00 to well over 11 o'clock. I was the youngest person by 20 years. I would sit there and listen to them talking with those sonorous voices, like when you're little and you're lying in bed awake and listening to the

aunts and uncles talk and learning what goes on. So, I learned a lot of the history of Peaks Island, or at least, what the people thought was the history of Peaks Island. I think they weren't right about everything, like the claim that a Nazi submariner came ashore, but at least I found out what people thought had happened.

The Cockeyed Gull had been run for some time by Billy Cass when I came. When I eat there, particularly on the deck, I remember the time Bill came over to me and said, "Tom, do you think if I built a deck on this thing people would use it?" I said, "You can't go wrong." The reason it was called the Cockeyed Gull was because there was no spot on the floor that if you put a marble it wouldn't roll to some other spot. It was really cockeyed! And they had the best breakfasts, especially Sunday morning breakfast.



photo by Dennis Rockwell

Have you lived on Peaks for a long time? Do you have a Peaks Island story to tell of memories from childhood or that illustrates why you love living here? Please email or call Fran Houston. She has already heard some great stories and she wants to hear yours. fran_houston@hotmail.com, or call 766.2286.

AS TOLD TO FRAN HOUSTON

I was moving back from law school in New Hampshire. I had gotten a job at a law firm but was planning to go to Boston or Washington or New York — but I recalled having read in the Maine Times, seven or eight years earlier, an article about Peaks. I recall it was written as an expose and I remember them writing, "A slum right here in Portland Harbor." When I read the article, it sounded really great!

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Island Views

Letters

Dear Editor

On Tuesday, March 9, a representative group of islanders presented their case to the Commissioners at the Public Utilities Commission. Last spring they had petitioned the Commission to rescind the rate hikes imposed last May on passengers, freight and automobiles transported by the Casco Bay Islands Transit District.

As the process unfolded during the past year, we sought help from several state representatives, our state senator and even the governor, who referred us to the Public Advocate's Office. Mr. William C. Black, the advocate who accepted our case, proved to be invaluable. As a lawyer, he was able to give us legal advice we, as private citizens, could not otherwise afford.

In December we received the preliminary recommendation that the case be dismissed. At that stage Representative Herbert Adams, a representative of Portland, but not our district, was concerned enough to write a letter to the Commission on our behalf. He simply, but articulately, requested that we be given a hearing. It was only through his intervention that we were finally able to fully present our side of the issues to an impartial, independent third party.

It may be a number of weeks before the Commission renders its decision. However, we wish to publicly express our gratitude to Mr. Adams who enabled us to finally and fully state our case. On behalf of all the 280 islanders who originally signed the petition, we thank you.

Sincerely,
Sidney and Jane Gerard
Peaks Island

Dear Concerned Citizen

I received a copy of your note to the city in support of roadside mowing. I noticed a common theme in the three or four letters sent to the city, and since you and I have never spoken about this, I thought you might be interested in my point of view.

I agree with you that roadside mowing is necessary for the safety and protection of drivers and pedestrians, and for the road itself. We have miles of roadside that need to be maintained, and due to the lack of snow our island Public Services crew has been able to get at them with their new mower this winter.

(In my opinion winter is an excellent time to do the large stem mowing for a number of reasons: wildlife not nesting yet, less disruption to visitors, spring growth will cover cuts, etc).

What concerns me - and others who have complained to the PIC and the city - is something different. At the edge of our shore is a strip of land called the "buffer" that protects the land from erosion and the water from polluting runoff from the streets.

Because that buffer strip is so important, it is protected by state and city regulations that prohibit clearing within 75 feet of the high water mark. Recent roadside mowing strayed into some protected areas and caused damage to the vegetation there.

Roots of the plants hold the shoreline and keep it stable. Removal of the buffer causes erosion of the bank. We could lose valuable shore land, which is especially dangerous and potentially very expensive when the road is as close to shore as ours is.

My only goal is that all concerned know, understand and work within the rules so

that we protect our island shoreline for our own enjoyment and for that of future generations.

To be clear: I am not against roadside mowing. I am for protection of the shore land zone, and I am certain that both can be accomplished at the same time.

I have recently learned that the city wants to address the overgrown invasive species--especially bittersweet--on our city-owned shoreline. I'm very happy to hear that, and will offer support and assistance.

As an environmental professional, I know that with invasive species it is important to carefully select control methods that work, or risk wasting time and money. Some methods have proven to actually worsen the problem in the attempt to solve it.

Again, I will work actively with the city to come up with a plan that will use city resources (our tax dollars) as efficiently as possible to address the invasive species problem on Peaks Island.

I believe that we can understand our challenges, share goals, and work together to do what is best for the island now and in coming years. Many coastal communities have developed strategies to balance citizens' safety with environmentally sensitive practices, and we can, too. This is what I am committed to.

Regards,
Lynne Richard

Thank you from the PTO

The PTO would like to thank the community of Peaks Island for supporting our recent fund raisers - the Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction on Feb. 5 and the Peaks Island Improv Troupe (PIIT) on Feb. 12. The turnout for both events was fabulous and will allow us to fund enrichment events in and out of the classroom. Special thanks to Kim Dervis for organizing the silent auction, to all who made silent auction donations, and to the members of the PIIT for donating their time and talents.

Susan Hanley

My Hero On Peaks Island

Recently I became very ill. Suddenly, I was very weak and could not retain balance on my legs. When I left the hospital, I was given a "walker". However, this stabilizer could not help me when confronted with stairs.

In order to keep my doctor's appointments on the mainland, I called the Island Taxi. Jay Desmond, the driver, became much more than a driver. He came to my door, placed his arm firmly under mine, and together we descended step by step down the stairs. Even though I was terrified of falling, he never released his grip. He reassured me on every step.

When I returned from my visit, the Taxi was waiting. Jay helped me from the cab to the stairs. Going up step by step was difficult because I wore large boots which barely fit the steps. Jay, while holding his arm under mine, had to reach down and bend my knee to make the steps.

I miss the Taxi, but mostly I miss that wonderful guy, Jay Desmond.

Sincerely,
Mary Stimson
Peaks Island resident since 1985

from Congresswoman Chellie Pingree



As we head into spring, the urge to put winter behind us is oh so tempting. Flowers are coming up. Who wants to think about the cold nights we spent in our homes listening to the furnace run (and run and run)? I certainly don't! But before we put the heating-bill-blues behind us, we should consider the many programs out there to help us make our homes more efficient—the clock's ticking on them.

Right now there are more programs than ever to help homeowners tighten up their homes to save energy and money. Rebates on efficient appliances, tax credits for insulation, and money for increasing your home's overall efficiency are just a few. Some of these programs end this year, giving good reason to do the work before next winter's oil bills start coming in.

On March 8 in Westbrook I hosted a workshop to connect local people with some of these resources. Along with a certified energy auditor, we had representatives from several state and local agencies talk about how homeowners can access thousands of dollars in incentives.

One point was mentioned over and over: the importance of getting an energy audit. Having your house analyzed by a certified professional is the best way to launch into your home improvements. The information and advice they give on your home's insulations and air gaps can save you thousands of dollars by focusing your efforts on what will have the biggest impact.

After some persuasion from my daughter, Hannah, I finally had an energy-auditor come to my 1930s-era home on North Haven. Like many Mainers, I love my old house and thought the drafts and chills were just an inevitable part of the package. But I was really surprised when the energy auditor told me how much I could cut from my energy bill by taking some inexpensive steps. Using caulking to fill in gaps here, stuffing more insulation there, putting a heavy drape on that window—these simple fixes would add up to hundreds of dollars of savings every year.

The workshop attendees—myself included—listened closely to the

please see PINGREE, page 7

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Lines from Casco Bay Lines

BY CHRIS HOPPIN

Past columns have discussed rates, finances, committees, trips and ferry boats. However, none of them would be possible without the dedicated employees who staff the ticket offices, move the freight, assist passengers and maintain and operate the boats, so I've decided to write about Casco Bay Island Transit District employees in the next few months.

This month will focus on the ticket office, since it's the place where most of the passengers who travel on Casco Bay Lines first meet employees.

Six full-time employees, called operations agents, staff the ticket office in the Old Port terminal seven days per week. They sell tickets, ship freight and help operations as they work from as early as 4:45 a.m. to as late as 11:30 p.m. each day, depending upon the season.

Each week they normally work four 10-hour days or five eight-hour days, and their schedules include a range of duties, from selling tickets and answering phones to picking up and delivering

island mail. They reschedule workers who are ill and on vacation and serve as the primary shore side contacts with the boat captains. They also train and supervise six other part-time workers in the busy summer season.

Casco Bay Lines transports nearly one million passengers on scheduled, chartered and tour trips each year. Some summer days CBITD serves ten times as many passengers as it assists in the winter.

Summer visitors bring a range of questions that year-round travelers might find curious. Although "what gate is the next boat to Peaks" is the most frequent one, according to long-time agents Larry Legere and Gary Cressey, many visitors ask the agents to plan their day's tourist outings for them. "Of course, it varies considerably by season," Larry reports. "For example, the great weather on Saturday, March 20th brought us 29 more passengers than usual on the Mail Boat run. That meant an extra \$420 in ticket sales that day!"

Ticket sales lead to an accounting of cash that anyone who has ever worked a retail cash register would recognize immediately. One of their jobs is to balance the books each day. Passenger and ticket statistics also lead to a number of regular reports to the U.S. Coast

Guard and other agencies of federal government. Even the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers receives a report, so it can keep track of passengers and trips as it decides when Portland Harbor should be dredged.

Gary explains, "We're working all the time, even though the ticket office sometimes looks empty. We are always working on something, be it answering phones or scheduling. Invariably, when last-minute ticket buyers are trying to make the next boat, someone will call looking for information."

What's the most frequent phone question right now? He continues, "That's easy: When do the ticket prices change?" (April 17 this year.)

Some of the other questions the agents handle bring a bit of geographical humor to the office, especially during the hectic summer season. They range from "What's the name of the lake out there?" to "Do I need a passport to Peaks?"

One that baffles many agents is: "How long is the trip to Long Island?" When they hear the answer, 45 minutes, visitors have been known to ask, "Then, how far is Montauk? (Of course, that's on New York's Long Island!)"

"We are not making this up," the agents assured me. In fact, years ago they wrote down a wide range of questions

they had received in a special notebook of humor that has since disappeared.

On a more serious note, Operations Agent Nathan Contant describes one of the staff's more difficult tasks: dealing with a number of homeless visitors who sometimes loiter in the terminal. "We sympathize with these men and women, of course," Nathan explained, "but we cannot allow them to impact our customers. So, after letting them warm up on cold days, we generally ask them to leave, and most respect that request. If not, we contact the police department, something that is done almost daily at times."

When speaking of the past, several CBITD employees proudly report that they are second and third generation members of their families to work at Casco Bay Lines. And several of their own children have worked for the District, too. These include both part-time summer employees and full-time year-round workers. In total, CBITD usually employs 38 full-time people and 20 part-timers.

The three other full-time operations agents are Rob Anderson, Meghan Conley and Renee Watson. All of them double as freight agents as well as ticket agents. We will explore freight operations in a future column.

View from the Chair



BY MIKE RICHARDS, PIC CHAIR

Last month's storms left more dead trees on the ground, but Maine was recently granted federal disaster relief which expressly includes Cumberland County, so we hope the islands see the benefits soon.

The current down-front traffic plan is working. We'll stay on the winter rules until Memorial Day and then go to summer rules until Labor Day, and we hope islanders will embrace the change and help the plan succeed.

People have again complained of vehicles left parked in the down-front or on the street lot for months, and we've suggested they contact Senior Lead Officer Rob Lauterbach (233-9905), as it's a law enforcement issue.

We received a letter complaining of the boats stored for years on the beach down front, and that's also an enforcement issue, which Portland's Neighborhood/Island Liaison Mike Murray is investigating.

Peaks Island isn't getting any Community Development Block Grant funds this year, because our average income level is too high. The city also ended its annual subsidy to the Peaks Island Children's Workshop, but city councilor Donoghue suggests next year we focus the subsidy on families who need it rather than on the facility itself.

PIC representatives will attend the city's finance committee meeting on April 13 at 5:30 p.m. at city hall. It's the same time, date and place as the public hearing on HomeStart's proposed rezone to allow its Luther Street affordable housing project.

Parking in town remains a problem for many islanders. We learned the city is already paying the Ocean Gateway Garage \$100 per month for hundreds

of empty spaces, so the PIC has asked the city to rent islanders some of those spaces at a reduced cost. The city could make money and islanders would have a reasonable parking option.

We've also supported a suggestion that the city consider doing maintenance on Thames and Hancock Streets during the day, as most islanders park there at night and are gone during the day anyway. We've also asked that the traffic light at CBL be changed to a blinking light on non-peak hours.

We got complaints and kudos from a variety of sources about the island's road crew cutting the backshore bushes, so at our last workshop we met with Mike Bobinsky, Jeff Tarling, AJ Alves, and numerous islanders to discuss the matter. It has been a perennial issue on Peaks, and it involves safety issues and invasive plants, shoreland zoning and PILP easements, aesthetic beauty and turn-outs. We're assembling a group of people with a stake in the matter to cultivate a long-range plan that meets with broad islander consensus and city, state and federal laws.

The Island Safety Services report is coming soon and will serve as a policy guide for future action. During the process, we learned a lot about how good our professional and volunteer island responders are and how they're gaining young volunteers. In fact, islanders' response time to the last two fires on Peaks was much faster than the norm in the city. To augment the island's rescue responders, three Peaks Islanders are taking an EMT course on Cliff Island, which requires a demanding schedule of study until June, and we appreciate their commitment.

The taxi is starting back up again with a new business plan, building on the visibility and success created by the Island Transportation Service's first contractor. We're planning another public meeting with the city council on Peaks this summer, as last year's was enlightening for everyone.

The city is holding a special election on June 8 for a 2½-year seat on the PIC. For islanders who are interested in running, the deadline to submit nomination papers to the city clerk is April 5 at 5 p.m., and earlier is better.

We appreciate your comments about island issues and your attendance at our meetings. Your involvement helps us in our decision-making and reminds us of why the PIC was created in the first place - to serve the interests of our island community. If you'll continue to comment, we councilors will continue to listen. Together, we can make this process work for all of us.

PINGREE, from page 6

energy auditor Bill Najpaueras he talked about no-cost conservation measures. Turning your thermostat to 55 for 12 hours a day can cut 10 percent off your heating bill (for every degree you set the thermostat back you get 2 percent energy savings). Setting your hot water back to 120 degrees can save \$50 to \$70. A quick adjustment to make sure your door shuts tightly could be the quickest \$7 you ever made.

But for the more expensive fixes, you don't have to go it alone. Richard Meinking from Efficiency Maine talked about a range of federal incentives the agency administers where you can get money for saving money. Homeowners can get up to \$3,000 for cutting their home's energy use in half, and \$1,500 by a quarter. On top of that are federal tax credits to help you get there — 30 percent of the cost of efficient furnaces, windows, insulation, and alternative energy sources up to \$1,500.

Efficiency Maine also runs a number of other great programs, including cash rebates for buying efficient refrigerators, washing machines, and air conditioners, and offering assistance to businesses to help them cut costs. Visit <http://pingree.house.gov/issues/energy/stay-warm-for-less.shtml> for a listing of these resources or call my office at (207) 774-5019 to find out more.

Since many of these programs are funded by the Stimulus Act, they won't last forever. I hope as many Mainers as possible take advantage of these opportunities before they end. Conserving energy is a good thing for Maine and Mainers. At once you can save money, help the environment, cut our dependence on foreign oil, and grow the state's green economy.

Thinking of the cold may not be the first thing you'd like to do this spring—but, believe me, you'll thank yourself next winter.

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree represents Maine's First District in Congress. You can contact her office in Portland at 207-774-5019 or online at pingree.house.gov.

From the HomeStart board of directors

PROVIDED BY MARY TERRY

On Tuesday, April 13, the Portland Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 5:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers to consider a HomeStart proposal for three residential single-family dwelling units on the property at 16-18 Luther Street on Peaks Island.

The proposal calls for the rehabilitation of an existing single-family home at 18 Luther Street and construction of two new single-family homes on the adjacent site. The proposed plans for the two homes are available at the library and on the HomeStart webpage <http://peaksislandhomestart.org/news.html>.

This is a formal Planning Board session and public comments will be taken. Following the hearing, the full City Council will review the HomeStart plan and if approved, will then send it into a subdivision review process required on any lot that is divided into more than three home sites, with another series of public meetings as well.

This is the third hearing in a series on the HomeStart proposal. Previously, the Planning Board held a public workshop to discuss it on Jan. 12, followed by a neighborhood meeting Jan. 30, which drew approximately 50 Peaks Island residents to the Community Center to learn more about the proposal.

Prospective buyers for the proposed homes may pick up applications at the library, island churches, the school and the Peaks Island Children's Workshop as well as from the HomeStart webpage: <http://peaksislandhomestart.org/resources.html>. A selection committee, independent of the HomeStart board, will review applications. The process will allow applicants to apply confidentially. Only qualified applicant names will be shared with the HomeStart board and community.

We thank those who have generously supported our efforts and encourage continued support.

YOGA FOR LIFE

A yogic perspective on health and simple living

BY REBECCA JOHANNA STEPHANS

Rebecca Johanna Stephans teaches weekly yoga classes and private yoga lessons on Peaks Island and in Portland. You may direct your comments, inquiries, or column ideas to 766-3017 or rjsyoga@awi.net.

When I left my corporate job in 1983 I launched a three year exploration that eventually lead me to studying massage therapy in Portland. One of the jobs I held briefly during that time was assistant to the recreation director at a nursing home. My two favorite activities were reading the newspaper aloud every morning and an exercise class we developed called, "keep fit while you sit!"

There I was in my chair, 25 years old, in a circle of white haired folks in wheel chairs and we had a blast. That class not only inspired the residents, but it gave me very valuable lessons in making exercise

accessible to all, and not underestimating the feistiness or capability of people with physical limitations.

These days I bring that awareness to my strength training class - which also was developed in a nursing home - and to my yoga classes. I have witnessed the courage of many students with compromised abilities, including amputees and people with MS, cancer, fibromyalgia, frozen shoulders, broken bones and joint replacements. One of my teachers was fond of saying that if you could breathe and move one finger, you could practice yoga.

In the west, yoga classes often emphasize the vigorous physical practices, so it is understandable that some folks would feel intimidated, or simply dismiss yoga as an impossibility for them. However, in the holistic practice of yoga the physical postures are only one category among eight distinct practices. With some creativity, many yoga poses can be adapted to varying abilities.

The other seven practices are fully accessible to anyone with the desire to learn. Two of them are restraints and observances, the ethical practices of

yoga. I will write about these next month with a focus on care of the environment. Another is the breathing exercises, called "Pranayama" in sanskrit. Finally, there are four levels of meditation. In Kripalu yoga, the meditation and yoga poses are woven together in a practice we call "Meditation in Motion."

In addition to physical fitness, yoga practice encourages mental clarity, emotional maturity, and spiritual awakening. On the yoga mat we practice returning to the simple grace of a single breath, the rich gift of the moment we are currently experiencing, the pure energy waves of sensation that accompany moving gently past our comfort zones.

Sometimes the physical obstacles folks are managing prevent them from getting onto a yoga mat on the floor. In that case a chair becomes your "yoga mat". You can enjoy a very satisfying yoga practice either sitting on the chair, or standing and using the chair for support. Once you begin to think outside the box, anything is possible. I taught yoga lessons for a man with cerebral palsy who used a walker for support.

Chair yoga also comes in handy when you work a desk job, or have very limited

space and can't unfurl your yoga mat. For some reason that is still a mystery to me, many of us are swimming upstream against a tide of resistance to practices that enhance our well-being. Learning to practice yoga in a chair eliminates the objection that you can't practice because you don't have room, don't have time, are injured or you forgot your mat.

As with any other discipline practice, the first step is the most challenging. I suspect that once you sit towards the front edge of your chair and receive your first full breath, while raising your arms if you are able, your delight will be so compelling that you will continue. On numerous occasions I have guided five or ten minutes of chair yoga during meetings, and the shift in the energy in the room is palpable.

Now that you have no excuses left, pull up your favorite chair and start breathing. The postures below include a range of challenges. For assistance adapting yoga to your particular abilities, I recommend my chair yoga class in Portland, or one that is in planning stages on Peaks. As the light and warmth of spring revive the earth, may your natural wisdom, light, and joy awaken.

Intention: Begin your practice with a moment of stillness in which you affirm your intention to practice with compassion and mindfulness.



Seated Mountain

Strengthens muscles all along your spine and stimulates digestion. Sit toward the front of your chair with feet flat on the floor and lengthen your spine to your full seated height - without strain. Optionally lift your arms overhead.



Upward Boat

Strengthens abdominal muscles and thighs. Start with seated mountain. Lean back slightly without rounding your spine as you lift one leg. Hold the chair seat or stretch your arms out in front of you. Optionally lift both legs together.



Seated Warrior 2

Stretches hips and thighs and strengthens shoulders. Sit sideways in your chair and hold onto the seat (one arm behind you). As you twist to the front, extend the outside leg out to the side. Stretch your arms out and gaze over the forward arm.



Seated Twist

Lengthens and aligns spine, stimulates abdominal organs, soothes nervous system. Sit sideways in seated mountain. Bring your outside arm across your torso to hold the back of the chair, and your inside arm behind your back to hold the seat. Pull gently on the chair to move deeper into the twist.



Seated Half Moon

Opens up the side of your torso, strengthens your neck and shoulders. Start with seated mountain, and then with your gaze on a fixed point, bring your right hand to the chair and your left arm overhead. As you stretch, press your left sitting bone firmly into the chair. Repeat on the other side.



Back Arch

Strengthens your back and opens your heart. Start with seated mountain. Hinge forward slowly from your hips as you lift your heart and sweep your arms back and wide.



Seated Warrior Angle

Same benefits as Warrior 2 plus intense side stretch. Start with warrior 2 and then sweep the forward arm down towards the floor and the back arm up towards the sky.



Pause

Sit with your back supported by the chair back and your feet flat on the floor. Rest one hand on your belly and one hand on your heart. Close your eyes, breathe slowly and feel the effects of your practice. Offer yourself gratitude and compassion.

Peaks Island Experience Island Swingers

BY JERRY GARMAN

Other than our first fall, which taught us about gravity, the swing may have been one of our earliest scientific experiments. As we evolved from hanging onto a vine to using knotted ropes, to swinging on a board, a disk or a tire we were actually riding a pendulum and testing Galileo's Law.



The Moxhay children, Nikolai, Olwyn and Imogene enjoy three swings: a conventional plank, a horizontal tire and a sculpted black rubber stallion.

photo by Jerry Garman

But our first ride was in our mother's arm as she sang "Rock-A-Bye Baby". Early pioneer, the Hon. Thomas Brackett Reed, was rocked by his grandmother in a yellow rocker made by his great grandfather in the 1800s (this chair can be seen at the Fifth Maine Museum).

Later we were cautiously placed in an enclosed seat and gently pushed back and forth. Soon we swung from two ropes hanging from a tree branch attached to a seat. The height of our travel was limited to the length of the ropes and the strength of the pusher. Note: The National Swing Association posts a record of 20 feet.

We all secretly wondered if we could completely encircle the branch holding these ropes.

Only two commands were necessary: "hold on" and "higher". On that magical day when we learned to lean back at the high point of our arc and kick out our legs with a pumping motion we increased the amplitude of our swing, and with our downward velocity finally approached weightlessness and a silent freedom.

There are over 50 swings on Peaks Island, some with up to four attachments to the same tree. Most are plain but Liz

Rollins painted hers with a colorful snake design. Some have chosen wooden, metal or plastic swing sets, miniature playgrounds.

An accurate swing count would provide a children's census for the island.

Rose Ann Walsh remembers two of her favorites: a Tarzan rope swing (perhaps she was Jane?) once located behind St. Christopher's, and the curved branch of an oak tree which she could manipulate side-to-side and up and down (it is now supported by a wooden brace, having shared most of its swinging energy).

For five summers Mary Ellen Harmon supervised swings located in our parking lot until they were displaced to the Lion Club by a proposed ice rink.

Now, only the public swings located at the school playground are in constant motion, producing gravity-defying rides up to six feet high. Three are starter swings with holes for little legs and three are for swingers of all ages.

This limited number has even aided parents in teaching the concept of sharing. You may see parents and grandparents there trying to recapture their youth as well, but they would find a safer, more romantic version in the form a porch swing or glider.

It is difficult to tabulate the energy expended or the pleasure derived by such a popular creation. Joyce Kilmer wrote, "I think that I shall never see, a poem lovely as a tree."

He could have added, "Except attached to a wondrous thing, we lovingly call a swing."



For some a simple seat is adequate, but for Diane Dervis a blanketed seat becomes a "Dragon" waiting to be ridden.

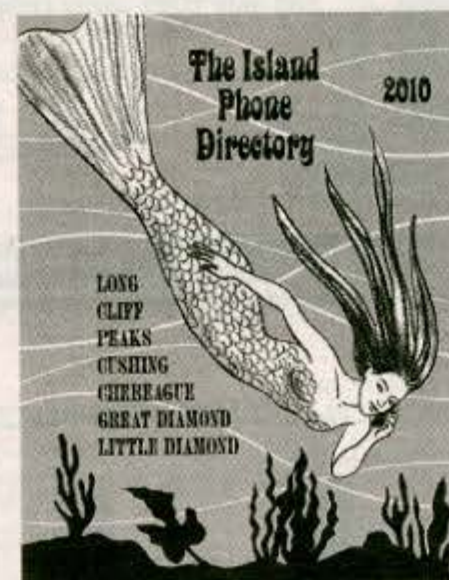
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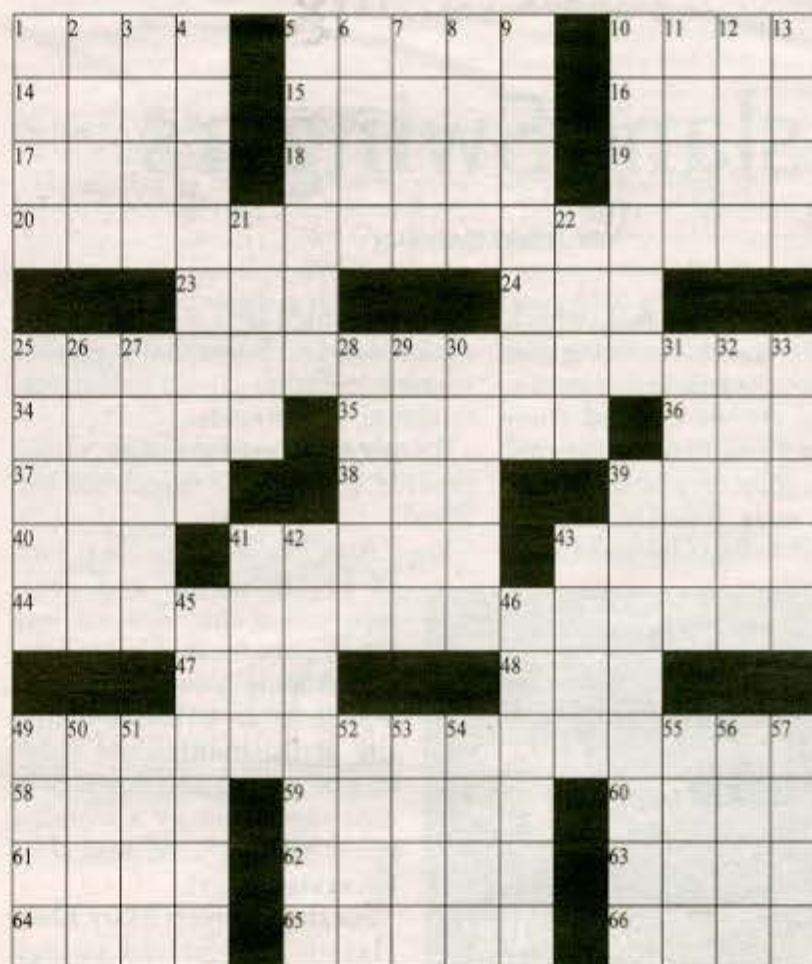
1. Complain
5. Slaves
10. Delicate stroke
14. Pound in Italy
15. Pennsylvania town
16. Tennis great
17. Larger computer maker than Dell
18. WW2 aircraft carrier
19. Cereal grain
20. First part of quote
23. Not sweet
24. Long-delayed Const. measure
25. _____ his _____;
second part of quote
34. Found in the wind section
35. Hag
36. Change, colloq.
37. _____ your way
38. Horton or Duncan
39. Prefix meaning clean
40. Use up
41. Organic compound
43. Spar
44. The _____;
third part of quote
47. Born
48. Prefix with minus or mite?
49. Hath _____;
last part of quote
58. Silica, by another name
59. _____ Franchitti, Indy 500 winner
60. The Great or the Terrible
61. One of the Shah's names
62. Famous U.S. defeat

63. He executed his mother
64. Prepared to drive
65. Vexed
66. Fat in Bordeaux

DOWN

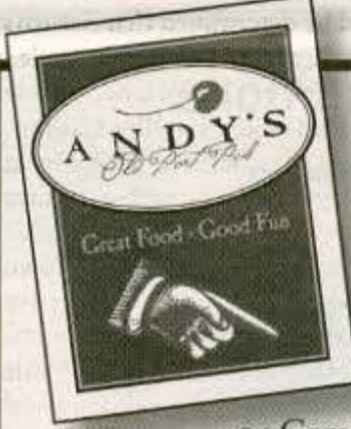
1. Scratch
2. Op-ed columnist
3. bh/2, for example
4. Farm outbuilding
5. Address
6. Orient
7. Hebrew for "head"
8. Founder of Red Hot Chili Peppers
9. Sweet _____
10. Prime grazing land
11. Employer
12. Popular cuisine
13. Poker clue
21. Deep lake
22. British bum
25. Impressed
26. App.-maker for i-Phone
27. TV character played by Jay Silverheels
28. Sonnet part
29. Waste product
30. Man's name
31. Sydney _____, astrologer
32. Pick-me-up
33. Archie's better half
39. Kind of partner
41. Author of Let Us Now Praise Famous Men
42. Famous English village

A Bit of Chaucer - by Anna Tierney



43. Character in Peter Pan
45. Bare
46. Site of 2009 murders
49. Wine
50. Olympic event
51. Level

52. Ankle bones
53. Adjective describing 5 Down
54. Clock
55. Finished
56. Storied mansion
57. Adam's grandson



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Star Gazing



Illustration by Jamie Hogan

April 2010 Sky

BY MIKE RICHARDS

"April" comes from the Latin word *apirere*, "to open," referring to the opening of buds on trees and flowers. The Earth's north pole is now inclined a bit toward the sun, which is now up and warming the northern hemisphere for more than half the day. In fact, this month alone, we'll gain almost a full hour of sunlight. It is also the month of Easter (April 4), the end of Passover (April 6), Buddha's birthday (April 8), Earth Day (April 22), Arbor Day (April 30), and "opening day" for Major League Baseball (Red Sox home opener against the Yankees on Easter Sunday at 8:05 p.m.).

PLANETS

In the first half of April, speedy Mercury is barely visible just above the western horizon at about 7:45 p.m. It's the closest planet to the sun, so it sets soon after the sun does.

Brilliant Venus is a little higher above the horizon, to the upper left of Mercury, as it comes around the back of the sun toward Earth. By lining up the two planets, you can see the 45° slant of the ecliptic here in Maine.

Ruddy Mars is overhead at sunset, just above M44, the Beehive cluster of stars, but Earth's inside orbit is taking us ahead of Mars, and it will fade in brightness noticeably this month.

Jupiter is a morning star on the eastern horizon an hour before sunrise and will continue to climb in our sky as Earth catches up with it.

Saturn was just at opposition last month, so it's in prime position for telescopic viewing now. Its rings are still nearly edge-on to Earth, so good luck finding the dark Cassini division between the inner and outer rings.

STARS

Because it's so close (only 8 light years away) white Sirius, the eye of the "Big Dog" Canis Major, is the brightest star in our sky, low in the southwest. Yellow Capharna is a bit higher in the northwest.

I see Capharna as the back of the cap of Auriga, the Charioteer, and the star that is the peak of the cap has faded in brightness now and will stay that way for 2 years, part of a 27-year cycle. Astronomers now think a companion star with a large dust cloud is passing slowly in front of it.

Nearly overhead are Castor and Pollux, the Gemini twins, with Mars to the southeast of them, and Regulus the big star in Leo to its southeast. Arcturus is the red star in the east and is easy to identify, as the Big Dipper's handle arcs right toward it.

Spica, the alpha star in otherwise dim Virgo is low in the southeast. The Beehive star cluster is almost directly overhead. The Bode Galaxy, M81, is just off the front of the Big Dipper, in line with and the same distance away as the diagonal corner of the dipper's cup. M3 is a big globular star cluster above Arcturus with a half-million stars.

Our sun is too remote to let us travel

to habitable planets around other stars, but star clusters may allow inter-stellar travel for its denizens.

ALMANAC

April 1: Sunrise is at 6:23 a.m. and sunset is at 7:08 p.m. This is April Fool's Day, apparently invented in Persia (now Iran) in the sixth century BC. Highest tide ("spring tide") this month is at 1:03 a.m., 12.7 feet above the lowest tide this month at 7:23 a.m. In fact, the tide won't be this high and low again until July.

April 3- The waning gibbous moon is less than a pinky's width above Antares, the red super-giant star in Scorpio. Compared to our sun, Antares is 800 times wider and 10,000 times brighter, but its mass is only 18 times greater, so it's much less dense than our home star.

April 4- Easter Sunday mixes the pagan tradition of eggs and bunnies with the Christian tradition of rebirth. Tonight just after sunset a quasi-conjunction of Venus and Mercury: they're only 3" apart — the width of your index finger at arm's length.

April 6- Last-quarter moon is high at sunrise, and it will appear smaller than usual, because ...

April 9- The moon's at apogee, its furthest away from Earth this month.

April 14- New moon means no moon to wash the night sky with light, the better to hunt for star clusters and galaxies. Christian Huygens, Dutch astronomer, was born this day in 1629. In 1655 he discovered Saturn's moon, Titan, and he determined that Saturn's "ears" were really thin rings that circled above the planet's equator. These days the man-made satellite Cassini-Huygens circles Saturn, peaks in at foggy Titan and sends amazing pictures back to Earth (see: saturn.jpl.nasa.gov).

April 15- Take your binoculars down front tonight around 8:15: elusive Mercury sits over the city, just below a day-old, thin crescent moon. While you're at it, can you also see the zodiacal light, that faint red triangular pillar of light on the horizon above the sun?

April 16- Tonight about 8:30, the Pleiades star cluster floats over the crescent moon in the western sky, with Venus blazing well below them.

April 21- First-quarter moon is high at sunset, and tonight the moon and Mars bracket the Beehive cluster. This would be a great night for the telescope, or even just binoculars, but of course every clear night is.

April 22- Lyrid Meteor Shower peaks today and tomorrow, with best viewing around 4 a.m.

April 24- The waxing gibbous moon's at perigee, its closest to Earth this month. That's Saturn above it.

April 28- A big Full "Egg" moon rises out of the ocean at 8:23 p.m., quite a sight for those on the 8:15 boat back to the island tonight.

April 30- Sunrise is now at 5:35 a.m. and sunset is at 7:41 p.m., giving us almost 14 hours of sunlight each day. For those on the early boat to town this Friday morning, a big, fat waning gibbous moon sets over the city at 6:32 a.m. It's Arbor Day, so go ahead and hug a tree, perhaps the greatest natural resource on planet earth.



Sunday Brunch

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From the FIFTH MAINE *Civic Engagement - Island Style*



Elusive island singer Andrew Fisher.
from Fifth Maine collection

BY KIM MACISAAC
FIFTH MAINE MUSEUM CURATOR

Our island forebears were an inquisitive lot, always eager to keep up with national events. To channel this interest they formed the Peaks Island Lyceum in December of 1875. The Preamble of the Lyceum states, "We the undersigned

inhabitants of these islands believing that a Literary Society, having for its object Natural Improvement, would promote the welfare and prosperity of the island."

At the first meeting on Dec. 10 James W. Brackett was voted president; James B. Jones, secretary; and Mrs. E.A. Jones, treasurer. According to the meeting minutes John S. Perry was elected vice-president "much to the disgust of that gentleman, who was, however, persuaded to serve his fellow creatures in that capacity." Each meeting consisted of a musical presentation, a select reading (usually delivered by a lady), a brief business meeting followed by a discussion of a "Question." Meetings concluded with a vote on the "Question" and a second musical presentation.

Lyceum members seemed to have had a particular interest in suffrage (i.e. voting rights). The first question discussed was "Resolved, that the Right of Suffrage should depend upon Education rather than Property." The male members voted yes. The ladies vote (they voted separately) resulted in a tie.

The suffrage question was again raised on Jan. 24, 1876 with the following resolution: "Resolved, that women ought to have the Right of Suffrage." The men voted no, 33 to 25. The ladies

voted 17 to 4 in favor. On Feb. 10 of that year suffrage was discussed a third time with the question being, "that universal suffrage in this country has proved to be a failure." The men voted 13 to 11 that it was not a failure and that "the darkies (a derogatory term applied to African Americans in the 19th century) ought to vote early and often." Again, the ladies vote was a tie.

Other topics such as war and intemperance were also discussed. On the latter topic Henry F. Skillings argued that "a man had better be found dead drunk a good many times than dead on the field of battle once" while Simeon A. Skillings "gave us a graphic picture of Delirium Tremors, suggesting snakes, demons, etc."

The remaining record book of the Lyceum provides a glimpse into the attitudes of islanders toward the pressing issues of the day – in many ways not so much different than our concerns today. Some of the entries show a lighthearted or humorous side.

For example, on one occasion Andrew Fisher, said to be a talented singer, was slated to be the musical entertainment. When he did not show up, President Brackett sent the island policeman to fetch him. And Secretary Jones

sometimes signed the meeting minutes as Scratchetary.

The last entry in the record book is Feb. 11, 1877. To date nothing has been found to indicate how much longer the Lyceum may have been active. But, we'll keep looking!



James W. Brackett, president of the Peaks Island Lyceum, organized in 1875.

from Fifth Maine collection

Got Animation?

Peaks Island's first ever animated film festival

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Once upon a time movie theaters routinely started off each show with a cartoon before rolling the feature film, and that's exactly what happened at the Friends of the Peaks Island Library's Saturday Night Movies show on Feb. 27.

Showing that night was *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, but before it ran the audience was treated to 11 original animated films by six young Peaks Island artists in what was billed, somewhat facetiously, the first annual Peaks Island Animated Film Festival.

The event was organized by Marty Braun and Paul Conley, volunteer

projectionists for the Saturday Night Movies program who called themselves the Peaks Island Film Academy for the occasion.

"It was a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants thing," said Marty. "We had no submissions until one week before the deadline."

The show included some amazing shorts by Zev Eisenberg and Sara Connor, both college students majoring in film and media, as well explorations of clay, toy and food animation by Daisy Braun, 13, Imogen Moxhay, 11, Arthur Thompson-Johnson, 10, and Maximilian Eaton, 7.

Zev's first film, *Spell*, used a technique called kinetic typography to animate the recording from a Honeymooners episode in which Alice bets Ralph \$32,000 that he can't say antidisestablishmentarianism, let alone spell it.

Sara Connor's films featured her own artwork, hundreds of sketches, line drawings and rich colorful paintings that she used to create images that walked, flew, expanded, flickered, vibrated or morphed into something entirely new.

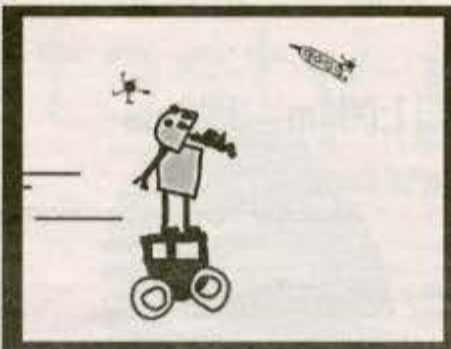
The future of the Peaks Island Film Academy is uncertain at this point, but there are hopes that the Animated Film Festival will become an annual event.



ABOVE: A scene from "Cookie Hamster" by Daisy Braun and Imogen Moxhay.



ABOVE: A scene from "Spell" by Zev Eisenberg. BELOW: Sara Connor's "Gorilla", one of several cells that were subtly altered so that the image swoll and flickered before morphing entirely into a different scene.



ABOVE: From "Robot Vampire" by Max Eaton, the story of an invasion from outer space with a happy ending. BELOW: In Arthur Johnson's film "To the Moon" a baby chick finds a rocket ship at a junk shop and flies it to the moon where he has a picnic under the stars.



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BACKSHORE

String ensemble performs for charity

BY KEVIN ATTRA

Inside the gothic arches of the St. Luke cathedral on State Street in Portland, about 30 people sat in pews decorated with ribbon and flowers to hear the seven-member Cicada Chamber Players perform two sets of contemporary and classical string music. Proceeds were donated to the Preble Street soup kitchen.

It is a secret privilege to hear this group perform – the Cicada ensemble is composed of some of the best classical artists in the country, including violinist Jennifer Elowitch of the Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra, pianist Heidi Upton from New York's Lincoln Center and freelance flutist Wendy Stern, who plays with numerous orchestras in the U.S.

The annual concert, now in its fourth year, is designed to bring art and music together, according to bassist William Blossom of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, who is a summer resident of Peaks Island and organizer of the event.

Fundraising this year included sale of art work by Victor Romanyshyn who also attended the concert. This year raised several hundred dollars for the soup kitchen. Each year the charity is different.

Also attending were Peaks Island Music Association director Faith York and her husband Larry Ducharme, performance artist Julie Goell, Don and Priscilla Webster and former island residents George and Cevia Rosol.

Mr. Blossom plays a string bass that he modified to accommodate a

fifth string tuned to a low C. Besides performing and teaching, he repairs double basses and makes bows, a craft he learned from West Coast violin and bow-maker Lloyd Liu.

The acoustics of the Cathedral of St. Luke are ideal for string instruments, but the savory music produced by this phenomenal group had flavors that ran from oak and hot cider to soft, sweet marshmallow.

The group performed seven compositions include a complex piece written last year by Emily Tu, a 15-year-old student of the ensemble's flutist Wendy Stern.

Stern's daughter, Shelby Yamin, is an outstanding violinist. She especially shone in a duet with violist Hannah Ross on a piece by George Handel, *Passacaglia*, that featured whimsical, blinding runs up the finger board. She never missed.



Violinist Shelby Yamin and bassist William Blossom perform a trio in C by Joseph Hayden with pianist Heidi Upton (not shown).

photo by Faith York

A look at secession - Part 2

BY KEVIN ATTRA

[Ed. Note: This article was originally scheduled for publication last month, but was delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.]

In April 1982, looking for drugs and illegal aliens in Florida, the U.S. Border Patrol blockaded U.S. Highway 1, the only road into the Florida Keys from the mainland. At first the islanders protested, but when that didn't work they decided to secede from the United States and declared themselves the Conch Republic.

Apparently one minute later Key West's mayor surrendered to the admiral in charge of a nearby naval base and requested \$1 billion in foreign aid and war relief, which was never paid.

In 2005, an article in the Concord Monitor stated that officials in the town of Sunapee, New Hampshire also chose April to "abandon Sullivan County and join Merrimack County, where they figure their tax burden will be lower."

The article stated, "The town of 2,700 claims it uses only 2 percent of the county's services but pays about 25 percent of its taxes." Allegedly, secession has been a topic there since 1781.

When the Peaks Island secession effort failed in 2007, the Portland Press Herald ran an un-credited opinion piece in its "Our Views" section that stated, "One matter clearly settled in the 7-5 ought-not-to-pass vote is that Peaks residents have no inherent right to secede."

On the other hand, Thomas Jefferson argued that since consent is a fundamental condition in a democracy, the will of a majority to secede should be recognized.

Early Ohio legislation permitted

incorporation of villages with a minimum of 30 inhabitants, so Beachwood Village, formerly part of another township, was able to secede in 1915 when township officials decided to close one of the schools. Chebeague seceded from Cumberland for the same reason in 2007.

The Press Herald article went on to say, "With regard to the school, assurances should be given, but they shouldn't be open-ended ... It might be reasonable to expect a school for, say, 15 students, but is it reasonable if there are only five?"

A July 2007 NPR story quoted Chebeague resident Carol White, a geologist and mother of two, as saying, "We had to look at the question of how we protect the school ... We were very certain that if we lost the school, we would lose the year-round community."

Maine islands have historically lost year-round populations when schools fail. At the point where students must be sent to the mainland, young families typically move away, something that many Peaks Islanders are still concerned about.

Island resident Frank Peretti, a former member of the Island Independence Committee, said, "The hardest [issue] was the school. The main fear was that at some point in time, Portland's going to close the school."

"For those of us who have children in school, it's a threshold issue," said resident Jak Soley. He said he worried the quality of teaching staff might decline after independence. "Of anything, it gave me the greatest pause."

"I'm sure we could do it ourselves," said Peretti. "We need the school. I think we'll have the finances to do it." Comparing Peaks Island to Long Island, he added, "We won't have a \$5 mil rate, we'll have a \$7 mil rate." [Currently Long Island residents pay a little under \$6, Peaks pays over \$17.]

On the other hand, as resident Joe Kane

pointed out in an interview last year, Peaks is not a rural island, compared to Long Island.

"We're like no other island in Maine. We're completely unique. We're not like any neighborhood in Portland."

He added that Peaks is also the most tourist-laden. "If you look at where the \$5 million [in tax revenue] comes from, I'd bet at least half comes from people who don't live here. The downside is a lot of people come for second homes."

As demand has increased for second homes on the island, prices have gone up, and with new money coming in, older residents who can't keep up with skyrocketing taxes are being forced off.

"We've lost some great folks, the Rosols, the Goguens, the Mayos - victims of excess transportation and tax costs," wrote Peaks Island Councilor Lynne Richard in an email interview. "Even some strongly pro-Portland people have moved off

island - interestingly, most chose not to live in the city."

"I've always viewed the city as between a rock and a hard place," said Kane. "The city is a victim of the state tax policy. It has no means to raise money other than property taxes."

Philosopher Allen Buchanan has written that there six types of arguments typically used against secession. Three of them are routinely used in the case against Peaks Island independence:

"Protecting legitimate expectations" - those who are invested in a territory, even if it was stolen, would be hurt by secession. "Soft paternalism" - secession will be bad for secessionists. "Distributive justice" - wealthier areas cannot secede from poorer ones.

Next month we will conclude our series on secession with a critical look at how these arguments have been applied to Peaks Island.

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Banks lose interest in affordable housing

A new tax incentive program has been developed through the federal Economic Stimulus program to encourage banks to provide low interest financing for affordable housing.

"Lowering payments is becoming more important as the economy weakens," said Buch Maloney, an accountant with the U.S. Land Development Accounting Office in Atlanta, Georgia where the program is being administered.

"More borrowers are likely to lose jobs or encounter expenses they cannot afford. If the borrower is spending every last dollar on debt, that leaves them vulnerable to unexpected expenses."

The program encourages loan officers to push sub-prime mortgages by giving them a tax credit of up to 180 percent of the revenue they would lose by not charging higher interest. It can be applied against other expenses as well, such as court costs and legal fees.

He said interest rates can be as low as 4 percent and still be more profitable than seizing a modest three-bedroom home. To qualify, the property must currently be uninhabitable or undeveloped land.

In a New York Times article Feb. 17, David Brooks wrote, "As for the stimulus, that debate's over, but just for the record, I didn't mind the size, and I actually wish it were faster." [What?]

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COMMUNITY NOTES

The Gem The Gem Gallery is an artist/craftsperson cooperative of over 25 individuals in media of painting, drawing, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, printmaking, assemblage, fiber arts and writing. Solo and small group exhibitions change weekly and bi-weekly from June through October with larger themed member shows off-season and a holiday sale each year. Please call the gallery at 766-5600 for more information.

At the Dodwell Artwork by South Portland artist and teacher **Serena Wakelin** in her first solo exhibit, April & May - Your heart will not be still when you enjoy her still life water colors and oil painting. Reception Sunday May 2, 2pm to 4pm, to celebrate the artist and her birthday.

Annual Student Show opens in June, followed by **Beaches** for July and August. Artist submissions welcome, limit 2 per artist.

April - new oil paintings by Serena Wakelin. The Long Island Dodwell Gallery is located at the Long Island Learning Center on Gorham Ave and open according to the library schedule. Please call 766-2530 or visit online at <http://Library.Long-Island.Lib.me.us> for times. Curator Maggie Carle artsprits@myfairpoint.net or 766-2940.

Addison-Woolley at Studio 203A New Work for a New Season; works by Victor Romanyshyn, Diane Hudson, Alan Sockloff, Andrea van Voorst van Beest, Jan Pieter van Voorst van Beest, Norm Proulx, Jane Banquer, Arunas Bukauskas, Darrell Taylor, Dave Wade, Dan Dow and Ronnie Wilson. Running April 2 to April 9. Artists' reception Friday April 2 from 5 pm to 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are 1:15 pm to 5 pm each day, including Saturday and Sunday. Addison Woolley at Studio 203A, located in the Bakery Building at 61 Pleasant Street, Portland, curator Susan Porter. Phone 450-8499, website www.addisonwoolley.com.

The Fifth Maine Teaching & Interpreting the Civil War Saturday May 22: 8:30 am to 3:30 pm at the Fifth Maine Museum, Peaks Island. Workshop for teachers and heritage resource volunteers and professionals interested in enriching their knowledge of the Civil War and Maine's involvement as we approach the Sesquicentennial Commemoration in 2011. Topics range from Remembering the Civil War in a Throwaway Society to Hands-On and Minds-On: Using Primary Sources to Teach the Civil War. Fee: \$15 per person.

The Eighth Maine is a living museum and lodge built in 1891, providing accommodations for individuals and families. Currently closed for the season. For reservations or more information call 766-5086.

Brackett Church
Sunday Worship - 10 am, with Sunday School and Childcare
Peace, Ethics, Action, Community, Excellence (PEACE) youth group Sundays during the Sunday School hour. For info contact Antonia Winter, 766-2428.
Children's Choir, Mondays 2:45-3:15. For info contact Mavourneen Thompson 899-0108.
Thrift Shop, Saturday, March 13, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursday March 25, 4-6 p.m. in the

vestry. For info call 766-5013.

Thursday Morning Study, "Christian Pilgrimage", 10 am at the Parsonage, 9 Church Ave.

Prayer Shawl Ministry, Thursdays 1 pm to 3 pm at the Parsonage. All are welcome. For info contact Ann 766-2636 or Rebecca 766-3017.

Holy Week/Easter

Thursday/Tenebrae, April 1, Potluck 6 p.m., Worship 7 p.m. **Easter Sunday**, April 4, worship with Special Music, 10 a.m.; **Ecumenical Sunrise Worship**, 6 a.m., Backshore at Whaleback. **Easter Sunday Pancake Breakfast** following Sunrise Worship, at Brackett Fellowship Hall.

Brackett Memorial United Methodist Church, 9 Church Street, Peaks Island, Maine. Pastor: Rev. Desi Larson; (207) 766-5013; www.brackettmumc.org

Baptist Church Services

Sunday Service: 10 a.m. Bible Study, 11 a.m. Worship.

Wednesday Service: 7 p.m.

Teen Nights Thursdays at Peaks Island School gym 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Children's Workshop

Friday infant-toddler group is from 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m. while the older preschoolers go to the library for story time. For more information about the program, please visit our web-site: www.picw.org or call 766-2854.

The Workshop would like to thank its volunteers on the board of directors and various subcommittees, and also those who work directly with the children: Virginia Horne, our foster grandparent, Sue Ellen Roberts, who volunteers time with the children a morning or two a week, Norm Rasulis, our "Born to Read" volunteer. The volunteers add a depth to the program and we love them!

Peaks Island Library

The Main library reopens on Tuesday, April 6, an amazing new facility with beautiful spaces for children and families, teens and adults to enjoy.

Nursery-Rhyme Time - Wednesdays at 11 a.m. If you are the parent or caregiver of a child 0-3, or if you have visitors that age, please join us. **Story Time for Preschoolers** - Fridays at 10:15am.

The Peaks Island library is located at 129 Island Ave in the Community Center building. Hours are Tuesday 2 pm to 8 pm, Wednesday 10 am to 4 pm, Friday 10 am to 2 pm and Saturday 8 am to NOON. For more information call 766-5540 or visit www.portlandlibrary.com/locations/peaks.htm

Peaks Island Health Center

Open Mondays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Phone 766-2929 for appointment.

Just a friendly reminder: If you should call during business hours and no one answers the phone, it only means we are either on the other line or we are assisting other patients. Please leave a message. We will return your call as quickly as we can so you can receive the help you are looking for.

Community Food Pantry

At the Children's Workshop, open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. during the Workshop's hours. No Saturday hours through March. For more information, please contact Susan Hanley at susan@lgscom.com.

Portland Recreation

"MARCH INTO MAY" - 10-week program to get people of all ages and abilities more physically active. FREE! Thursday afternoons in the community room, drop in between 1:00 - 2:30 pm (adults) and 2:45 - 4:00 pm (school children). Schedule: April 1 - Ping Pong, April 8 - Ethnic dancing, April 15 - "Laugh Away Tax Day" Yoga, April 29 - Nordic Walking (maybe outdoors).

Walk Program - Monday and Thursday mornings at 8:15 (meet at community building). Indoor stretching when weather doesn't cooperate.

Low-Impact Aerobics with Weights - Monday and Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30.

Ping Pong Tuesdays - Tuesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00.

Adult Basketball - Tuesday evenings, 6:00 to 7:50 at Peaks Island School gym, \$2 per night. No program on Dec. 29 or on snow days.

No program during school vacations, holidays, school snow days. For more info, contact Denise Macaronas, Recreation Programmer, at 766-2970, or e-mail: dln@portlandmaine.gov. Additional activities and updates can be found on island bulletin board.

Patty's Old Books Free delivery to Peaks Island residents. Contact by email at pahenges@gmail.com or call 233-0317.

Recycling Electronics To recycle your old cell phones or music players, drop them in the collection box by the bulletin board at the library. They will be reconditioned and distributed to those who need them.

Do Not Call Registry to restrict telemarketing calls. To register, call toll-free (888) 382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov. If registering by phone, you must call from the number that you wish to add to the list. It's free and does not expire. Only residential land lines may be added. The FCC enforces the Do Not Call Registry. To file a complaint, email fcinfo@fcc.gov, or phone (888) 225-5322. You can also use the online complaint form at <http://esupport.fcc.gov/complaints.htm>.

Furniture & Building Materials Exchange

If you are discarding reusable furniture, cabinetry or building materials, please don't leave them at the transfer station to go into the landfill. Contact one of the two island

email lists (CEisenberg@rwl.com or choppin@aol.com) and describe what it is and where to pick it up. If it's free, be sure to say so. These folks provide a wonderful opportunity to recycle and reuse. If you have smaller items, donate them to the rummage sale held at the Brackett Church on the first Wednesday afternoon of every month from 2 pm to 5pm. And if all else fails, wait for a sunny day and put things in front of your house with a free sign. Nearly everyone's trash is somebody's treasure!

Container Sale

Compost bins, rain barrels, kitchen scrap pails and compost turners (Wingediggers) are being offered by the City of Portland's Public Services Department at greatly reduced costs. You will find flyers with information and order forms at Hannigan's Market and on the bulletin board inside the Community Center. Bill Oliver has offered to purchase and deliver items to the Community Center for people unable to do so themselves. Deliver date May 22. Orders must be received with payment (check or money order) by April 26. Contact Bill Oliver at 766-5152 or email islander.oliver@gmail.com.

Classes & Instruction

Dance Classes For class schedule and information contact Sharoan at 776-5066 (cell) or by email sharoana@gmail.com.

Yoga Classes in Brackett Fellowship Hall. Please contact Rebecca Stephens for the schedule at 766-3017 or rjsyoga@awi.net.

Weight Training Mondays and Thursdays 5 pm to 6 pm in the Community Room, ankle and hand weight training for strength and to encourage strong bones. Call Rhonda (2483) for more information.

Cooking for Crowds Workshop

Kathy Savoie, MS, RD, University of Maine Cooperative Extension. To be held on Thursday, April 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Brown Memorial Library in E. Baldwin; Monday, April 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post in Gray; Friday, April 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the St. Maximilian Episcopal Church in Scarborough. \$10 per person. To register call 780-4205 or 800-287-1471 (toll free in Maine). Please, bring your own lunch.



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COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

Thursday April 1

APRIL FOOLS' DAY FUN and LAUGHTER Share a favorite prank or be the victim of one! Play Bingo for "foolish" prizes; BYO lunch to enjoy afterwards. Drop in anytime between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm at the community room.

Friday April 2

First Friday Comedy Night at The Inn on Peaks Island with host Mike Sylvester. Kicking off this monthly event of stand-up comedy are comedians Louis Avent, Kate Ghiloni and Quinn Collins. House band: Steve Dunphy and Pete Witham of the Cozmik Zombies. Doors open at 7:30, tickets are \$6. Proceeds will go to Peaks Little League. Reservations 766-5100. Take 7:15 p.m. ferry from Portland; 9:40 p.m. or 10:55 p.m. ferry home. Headlining May 7 is Joe Richio.

Easter Sunday April 4

Ecumenical Sunrise Worship, 6 a.m., Backshore at Whaleback, with Pancake Breakfast afterward at the Brackett Church in the Fellowship Hall. Easter Sunday Worship with Special Music, 10 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt afterward.

Monday, April 5

Portland Recreation First Monday Fun: Preschoolers/Adults from 11 am to 12 pm in the community room (children must be accompanied by an adult). Drop in any time, no pre-registration. Be creative as we make some Springtime crafts/gifts.

PEAT meeting at 6:30 p.m. at 25 Crescent.

Tuesday, April 6

Peaks Island Library First Tuesday Book Discussion - at 7 pm at the library, 129 Island Avenue, on *Sea of Poppies* by Amitav Ghosh. All are welcome. In May moderator Patricia Erikson has chosen *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins for its appeal to both young adult and adult readers, male and female. In June, the book will be *Brick Lane* by Monica Ali, moderated by Mary Douglas.

To reserve a book call 766-5540 or email peaks@portland.lib.me.us, and include your library card number. Please contact the library if you have a copy to share.

Tuesday April 13

Loaf and Ladle Dinner at the Peaks Island Baptist Church Social Hall from 5 pm to 7 pm, \$6 for adults and \$2.50 for children. The menu will feature dishes that were enjoyed by our families in good

times and bad. This night of nostalgia comes two days before the taxman visits!

Friday, April 16

Open Mic Night - 7:30 pm at the Brackett Memorial Church. Stories, music, poetry, maybe dessert to share, and enjoy a fun-filled evening. For more info contact Sam Saltonstall, 899-0922.

Open House Celebrating Boston! Share something you love about Boston (favorite baked bean recipe or Boston Crème Pie!) and then do some pre-marathon exercises. Drop in anytime from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm in the community room.

Saturday, April 17

Fundraiser at the Inn on Peaks to benefit Peaks Island Tax Assistance and Energy Assistance from 7-10 p.m., \$6 per person. The band 43N 70W will be playing. Come join the fun.

Thursday, April 22

Earth Day Walk from Indian Trail to Community Garden, walk starts at 1:00 pm at the Brackett Avenue entrance to the Indian Trail. Dress appropriately for the weather as we will walk rain or shine.

Friday, April 23

Reuse and Recycle "inventions" and gifts; drop in anytime to the community room between 10 am to 12:30 pm

Afternoon Movie "Home Alone" (PG, 103 minutes) at 1:00 pm in the community room.

Saturday, April 24

All-island trash pickup in the morning, in honor of Earth Day, sponsored by PEAT.

Monday, April 26

TRAVELÖGUE - ENGLAND Visit such places as the white cliffs of Dover, Stonehenge, Canterbury, London and more! (60 minute video) from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm in the community room.

Thursday, April 29

Portland Schools Superintendent James Morse and Assistant Superintendent Jill Blackwood will hold an open meeting in the Peaks Island Elementary School gym at 6:00 pm. Everyone is urged to come.

Brackett Memorial Church Supper, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. featuring spaghetti with choice of sauce, homemade bread, salads and desserts. Free and open to the public to enjoy food, community, and good company. Call Wally Fischer, 755-0923.

Saturday, May 1

Carmen the Mopera with Julie Goell (right). Directed by Avner Eisenberg at 8 pm. A hilarious solo version of Bizet's "Carmen" with vocal highlights, spontaneous sketches and lunatic physical comedy at the Old Port Playhouse, 19 Temple Street, Portland (next to the Nickelodeon Theater) Call 773-0333 or visit www.oldportplayhouse.com.

Friday May 7

First Friday Comedy at The Inn on Peaks with host Mike Sylvester. Stand-up comedian Joe Richio headlines. Doors open at 7:30, tickets are \$6. Proceeds go to Peaks Little League. Reservations 766-5100. Take 7:15 p.m. ferry from Portland.



Special Notice

PLANNING BOARD HEARING

The Portland Planning Board will hold a public hearing Tuesday, April 13, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, Council Chambers, 2nd Floor to consider a proposed conditional rezoning agreement for the property located at 16-18 Luther Street on Peaks Island to allow three (3) residential single-family dwelling units: two (2) new single family homes for the property

and the rehabilitation of an existing single-family home at 18 Luther Street. The developer is HomeStart. All of the residential units will be marketed as affordable housing. The public hearing is an opportunity for the applicant to present a plan to the Planning Board in a formal session which is open to the public. Public comments will be taken at this meeting.

Summer Programs

Peaks Island Fiber Arts Camp After-school program begins March 24, on Wednesday afternoons from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. thru May 5 (no session April 21). Fee \$90. Please contact Laura Glendening at 766-5705 or by email at lrglen@yahoo.com.

Friends of the TEIA Registration for "Camperships" begins in May for Peaks Island children who want to attend the club's sailing, tennis and kid's camp programs. All fees are paid by Friends of the TEIA. Registration forms will be available at the Peaks Island School. Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile endeavor either by volunteering or contributing financially should call Stephanie Castle at sealights99@aol.com or Barbara Hoppin at bahoppin@aol.com.

Next Issue

Questioning Patriotism

"As I child, I equated Memorial Weekend with opening our cottage, visiting with 'Uncle' Doug Mac Vane and viewing the Peaks Island Memorial Day parade.

"As a child of the 60's, I questioned authority. I believed protests and peace went hand in glove. I argued vehemently with my dad - a WW2 Veteran - against the Vietnam war."

Next month, special contributor Jo Israelson will explore the nature of patriotism in honor of Memorial Day, the last day of May, opening day for the summer of 2010.

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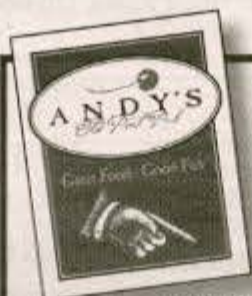


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